

# Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

**March 24, 2016 | Spring has sprung in Wisconsin!**

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

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*Photo from Tipi Produce, Evansville, WI*

## The results are in!



### Results from the USDA Farm to School Census show local purchasing is growing across the country!

Results from the 2015 USDA Farm to School Census are available online at [farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov](http://farmtoschoolcensus.fns.usda.gov). More than 12,500 public, private and charter school districts responded and reported almost \$800 MILLION in local food spending. Compare that to the \$385 in local food purchasing reported in 2011-2012 and it's clear – Farm to School is growing!

What does that mean for Wisconsin? According to the survey, **49% of Wisconsin School Districts are participating, impacting 565,559 students.** On average, schools responding reported spending 10% of their budgets on local products, or a **total of \$9.2 MILLION invested in the Wisconsin economy through purchasing local food.** Check out all the [Wisconsin stats](#) and look at school districts up close, and vote for your favorite in the One in a Melon Contest!

### You're 'One in a Melon'!

Now through April 15, USDA is running a contest for school districts to win its coveted “**One in a Melon**” award. Tell USDA about the great farm to school activities you are involved with and enter for a chance to win this award. Additionally, don't hesitate to engage your own networks through email or any other social media activities and mobilize them to nominate your program to win the “One in a Melon” award. School districts from each state with the most nominations will win. The more folks involved, the better chances of you winning. Show the state why your farm to school program is truly one in a million!

Winners will be announced before school lets out this year so click [here](#) to find your school district and enter to be considered "One in a Melon!"

Congrats on the amazing work, Wisconsin!

## Register today for the National Farm to Cafeteria Conference!



### Early bird registration ends March 31, 2016!

Join us for the 8th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference and see how you can change the culture of food and agricultural literacy across America.

Three days

48 skill-building workshops

Dynamic lightning talks

Experiential field trips

Educational short courses

Inspiring keynote addresses

Unparalleled networking opportunities

The last National Farm to Cafeteria Conference sold out before registration closed, so don't delay to secure your spot!

Learn more and start building your conference experience at

[farmtocafeteriaconference.org](http://farmtocafeteriaconference.org)

## Are you interested in hosting an AmeriCorps member to help grow your farm to school program?

DATCP is excited to release a call for proposals to become a host site partner in the AmeriCorps Farm to School program for the 2016-2017 grant year. This AmeriCorps program focuses on obesity prevention for WI students by: implementing nutrition and garden education, building functional school gardens, introducing fresh local foods to school children through tastings or direct procurement in the lunchroom, connecting farmers to schools, and engaging in promotional events. This program is targeted at communities interested in starting or growing farm to school programming. Non-profit and state government organizations are eligible to apply to become host sites. If you would be interested in learning more about our program please contact program manager Dominique Bradley at (608) 224-5017 or [Dominique.Bradley@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Dominique.Bradley@wisconsin.gov).



You can also view the Request for Proposal application on the [DATCP Farm to School](http://DATCPFarmtoSchool.org) website. Intent to apply to become a host site is due 3/28 and final applications are due 4/11.

## Webinars, Conferences and Events





**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MAY 3 & 4, 2016**

## **Statewide Hunger & Health Summit**

**Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids**

More info at <http://bit.ly/FW2016Summit>



Feed My People  
FOOD BANK



## **Farm to School Funding Opportunities**

Spring is here and so are funding opportunities! Supporting the development of local food systems? Teaching preschoolers about nutrition? Conducting taste tests of fruits and veggies in schools? Read on to see if the following opportunities meet your program's needs.

## USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program

AMS has grant funding available to strengthen local and regional food systems through the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program, and is hosting webinars to help potential applicants with the grant process.

AMS is providing over \$26 million in competitive grants, divided equally between the [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#) (FMPP) and the [Local Food Promotion Program](#) (LFPP). FMPP grants support direct producer-to-consumer marketing projects. LFPP funding supports projects, **including farm to school projects**, that develop, improve, and expand local and regional food business supply chain activities, including processing, distribution, aggregation, and storage of locally produced food products.

AMS will host a webinar March 29 ([registration link](#)) at 2:00 PM EDT to explain how to submit grant applications through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Additional grant writing workshops will be held through the Agricultural Marketing Service Technical Assistance (AMSTA) Project. Visit [www.amsta.net](http://www.amsta.net) to see if training is scheduled in your area.

Farm to school example: In 2014 Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation received a LFPP grant to expand a pilot Farm to Early Care Project in Central Brooklyn by increasing access to farm fresh, healthy food for 1,500 children while generating increased revenue for participating farmers.

Applications are due May 12, 2016.

## USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

More than \$62 million in grant funding is available to support specialty crop producers through the [Specialty Crop Block Grant Program](#) (SCBGP). SCBGP grants are allocated to U.S. states and territories for projects that help support specialty crop growers, **including locally grown fruits and vegetables**, through research and other programs to increase demand.

Those interested in applying should do so directly through their state departments of agriculture. Information for WI Specialty Crop Block Grants can be [found here](#).

USDA encourages projects related to the following priority areas: benefitting underserved communities and veterans, improving producer capacity to comply with the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act, developing adaptation and mitigation strategies for farmers in drought-stricken regions of the country, increasing opportunities for new and beginning farmers, **developing strong local and regional food systems**, protecting pollinator habitats and improving pollinator health, and supporting the growth of organic specialty crops.

Farm to school example: Using SCBG funds, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture partnered with the Food Trust to increase purchasing and serving of Pennsylvania specialty crops in Upper Moreland School District (UMSD) by enhancing farm to school purchasing practices for cost-efficiency and menu variety at UMSD.



## **T&L Foundation for Child Care Information: Mini-Grants**

Ready to get a preschool garden growing? Sowing great ideas for teaching youth about where their food comes from? If you are a licensed family child care provider participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) or a CACFP sponsor and have a small project focused on health and wellness, check out the [T&L Foundation for Child Care Information](#)'s mini-grants. Projects must target one or more of the following objectives, so be sure to clearly specify which objectives your project addresses:

- Overall quality of health and wellness in child care settings
- Enhancing nutrition and healthy eating habits in child care settings
- Enhancing physical activity in child care settings
- Engaging parents in education of health and wellness via child care provider relationships

Applications are due April 13, 2016.

## **Chef Ann Foundation Project Produce Grant**

The [Chef Ann Foundation](#) has \$250,000 available to support school lunchroom learning programs. Project Produce: Fruit and Veggie Grants for Schools is a grant program designed to help increase kids' access to fresh fruits and vegetables and create experiential nutrition education when and where students make their food choices: in the cafeteria. The \$2,500 one-year grants support food costs to incorporate school-wide fruit and vegetable tastings into the school's nutrition program.



Grants will be determined on an ongoing basis depending on available funding; there is no application deadline.



## **National Black Farmers Association Scholarship Program**

Applications for the National Black Farmers Association Scholarship Program are now being accepted. Deadline to submit is May 2, 2016, or when 100 applications have been received, whichever comes first. The scholarship provides up to \$5,000 to students pursuing agriculture-related studies at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school. [Learn more here.](#)

# Mark Your Calendars for the 2016 Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch

Spring has just started but we're already thinking about next fall! The 2016 Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch will be October 13, 2016. Here are two ways that you can get excited for the 2016 Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch!



## Get ready to vote....

### McKay's 2015 Apple Crunch Photo Contest

McKay Nursery Company in Waterloo, WI, is hosting a contest to determine the best photos from Wisconsin's 2015 Great Apple Crunch! Photos from the contest finalists will be posted on the [McKay Nursery Facebook Page](#) during Earth Week, April 18-21st. The three photos with the most "likes" during that period will win edible plant packages from McKay, so be sure to vote for your favorite with the "like" button!

Congratulations to all the photo contest finalists around the state: Augusta School District, Community Groundworks, Janesville School District, North Crawford School District, St. Joseph Parish School, Southern Door School District, YMCA of Portage County, School for Agricultural & Environmental Studies (SAGES), and Sparta Area School District.



## Get your pens out....

This year will mark the 2nd Apple Poem Competition in support of the DOD Fresh Program, the Farm to School Program and the Great Lakes Great Apple Crunch!

Like last year, DNO/GPS Produce, the sponsor of this School-wide Poetry Competition, has asked the National Federation of State Poetry Societies to judge all submissions for the winning entry in each of three categories. The best poem in each category will receive an **award certificate**, a **LocalHarvest gift certificate**, and inclusion in our Newsletter. Competition Rules will be published in the DNO/GPS monthly bulletin in September. Teachers may plan to introduce a special poetic form for this occasion and students may find inspiration in last year's winning poems:

<b>CATEGORY I: Grade 1 through 4</b>	<b>CATEGORY II: Grade 5 through 8</b>	<b>CATEGORY III: Grade 9 through 12</b>
<i>Mya Schwarz, Age 7 Purdy Elementary School</i>	<i>Willow Pawlisch, Age 10 Fall River Elementary School</i>	<i>Kylee Knight, Age-16 Dodgeville High School</i>
<b>APPLE HAIKU #1</b> Juicy in my mouth Making cider out of them Pour it in my cup	<b>APPLES</b> Apples are a tasty treat Red and shiny so unique Apples, apples what an art Different colors, sweet and tart Apple butter, apple pie, Apple jelly -- my oh my!	<b>APPLE'S PROTECTOR</b> The emerald leaves Surround the puce in earnest. Protecting the blush, Bulbous life is created Until its purpose has come.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or [sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov).



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